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Fertilizers

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FERTILIZERS.

Reports on several experiments are deferred until February when our next bulletin will be issued. We acknowledge with gratitude the donation of Mr. C. B. Souter, of Cedar Rapids, of two tons of slaughter house tankage fertilizer for experiment in growing crops. We have used numerous fertilizers on different crops during the past season, but will repeat all of them before publishing indications.

We make an exception to this resolution, with regard to the liquid manure of the barnyard. We composted the different manures from the several stables mixing the heavy and wet, with the dry straw, so as to prepare the whole for application. When spring rains came a sediment flowed from the heaps that we dipped into barrels and applied to one of the corn fields, carefully marking the rows and giving them the same cultivation the rest of the field had. The rows that had the liquid manure sprinkled over them yielded 82.02 bushels an acre. The same number of rows husked for comparison growing beside them yielded 59.06 bushels an acre. The manure from which the liquid seeped was common to most Iowa farms and was made from feeding corn with a little bran and oil meal. We applied 10 barrels of the liquid and got at the rate of 23 bushels of corn an acre—within a fraction—for our work. Our object was to call the attention of Iowa farmers to the loss resulting from the wash of barn yards and the loss of urine so universal over the state. Another effect from the liquid manure was very striking. The corn field had spots where the crop suffered from drouth, or bacteria, or soil conditions, that caused a withering of the lower leaves and produced yellow coloring on the higher leaves. One of these affected spots lay contiguous to the rows sprinkled with the liquid manure. The disease, whatever it was, stopped at the first row where the liquid was applied. On one side was an affected foliage, on the other a dark green, healthy, vigorous

foliage. It was evident that the extra nutrition of the corn growing on liquid manure enabled it to resist what affected that growing in the next rows. We hope to get a feeding barn built with cement floors and cistern, to save this valuable fertilizer, so as to enable us to inquire more thoroughly into its value on prairie soils, that are not always benefitted by many of the commercial fertilizers so much used elsewhere.

THE DIRECTOR.